



# Robertson News

May 2014

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**Principal: Mr. Wolf**  
**Secretary: Mrs. Hegenauer**

## ROBERTSON NEWS

*May 2014*

### *MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL*

As we turn the corner into the month of May it is important to keep in mind that there is still a significant amount of time left in the school year. There are 7 full weeks left of school. The staff at Robertson is committed to helping all of our students reach their full potential and will do so right to the last day of school (Thursday, June 19). Working together, parents and teachers can help our students remain focused and productive for the rest of the school year. 7 weeks is a long stretch of time and a great deal of learning will be accomplished.

Continue to take time each day to ask your child how their school day was. Check homework assignments to be sure they are being completed on a regular basis. If you have any questions about homework or any other assignments, please call or email your child's teacher. Of course, be sure that your child reads or is read to at home every day. And please remind your child every day how important their education is to them *and to you*.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

**Kindergarten 2014– online registration is open!!**

If you have a child who will be five years of age on or before January 1, 2015, he/she is eligible for kindergarten for September 2014. **Kindergarten registration** will take place at Robertson School on May 20, 21 and 22. To be eligible for kindergarten for the 2014-2015 school year a child must have been born no later than January 1, 2010.

To register for kindergarten there are two components that need to be completed. First, complete the online registration that is available on the Manchester Public Schools website (we can help!). Second, schedule a visit to Robertson for you **and** your child by calling 860-647-3372. You will need to bring some additional documents with you to complete registration, and we'll give you that information when you call for your appointment.

If you do not have access to the internet at home, please call the school to let us know. We will be happy to have you register your child using one of the school's computers. If you know of a family that has a child that will be attending Kindergarten next year, please give them this information. Thank you.

Stuart Wolf  
Principal

## APPROPRIATE DRESS

Springtime brings warm weather; therefore, this is a good time for a reminder about appropriate dress in school. The Student/Parent handbook says this about acceptable clothing in school:

Clothing should be neat, clean and free of any pictures, slogans or advertisements that are not appropriate in an elementary school.

Halter-tops, tank tops and short shorts are not acceptable. (A rule of thumb for tops is that the straps on a top should be thick and most of the shoulder should be covered. For shorts, nothing shorter than basketball or soccer shorts should be worn.)

Open toed shoes, sandals and flip-flops are not safe in a school environment and should be avoided.

Please help us keep all of our students focused on the task at hand – learning – during the last two months of school. Thank you.

## MEMORIAL DAY FLOWERS

The Permanent Memorial Day Committee is making plans for the Memorial Day Weekend and the annual Memorial Day Parade. Elementary school children have always played a very important part in this observance by supplying the committee with an abundance of potted plants. These plants and flowers are used to decorate Center Park for Memorial Day. The committee is asking all elementary school children to bring plants to school on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. They will be collected later that day to be placed in the park.

## OUTSTANDING STUDENTS!!

Congratulations to Robertson fifth graders Shalom Acheampong, Gabrielle Gajewski, Jessica Gajewski, Elaineh Paulino and Tyonna Tyson.. Each of these students was honored with the prestigious Board of Education Special Recognition Award at an awards ceremony held on March 26<sup>th</sup>, at Manchester High School's Bailey Auditorium. Their awards were for Academic Excellence, Citizenship and Effort. Each of these outstanding young people earned their award through hard work, perseverance and sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others. Shalom, Gabrielle, Jessica, Elaineh and Tyonna are role models for all of us. The Robertson School community is extremely proud of each one of them!



## LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

The last day of school is scheduled for Thursday, June 19. This will be an "E" day. **Robertson School will dismiss at 1:17 p.m. There will be lunch served on that day.**

## EARLY STUDENT PICK-UP

If it is absolutely necessary to pick your child up early from school, be sure to follow the appropriate procedure. Report directly to the office when you enter the school. Let us know who your child is and why you need to remove them from school early. The office will call the classroom to ask that your child come to the office with their belongings. Be sure to sign them out in the notebook that is on the office counter.

**For security purposes, no student will be dismissed directly from his or her classroom. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.**

## DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP SAFETY REMINDER

Vehicles bringing students to school in the morning and/or picking them up after school must use the back parking lot. The front parking lot is not to be used for this purpose.

## FIELD TRIPS

Many of our classes will be taking one or more field trips during May and June. Our field trips are always directly related to the curriculum at your child's grade level and are fantastic ways for students to have a personal experience in an area that they have learned about. First hand experience is one of the most powerful ways to learn. Please check your child's backpack daily to look for field trip notices. Each field trip requires parental permission for students to be able to participate. So be sure that when a field trip notice comes home you take a few minutes to read about the trip and then sign the permission slip for your child to be able to be a part of this learning experience. Field trips are also excellent opportunities for you to participate in an aspect of your child's education. Volunteer to go along with them. It's a great experience!

## May Library News

May library classes will be focused on reviewing library skills learned throughout the year and looking at the skills our students will be working with next year.

Throughout May the library will be making a big push to get all overdue library books returned. If your child brings home an overdue notice please help them locate and return the books. Thanks in advance for your assistance!

The library would like to thank the following students for sharing their collections in the library display case:

Jessica Gajewski and Lana Harris – Dragonology

Danyela Rivera – Beanie Babies

Sean Sourinho – Origami

Julian Figueroa – Baseball Hall of Fame

Nishigandha Bhambure – Rocks

Ola Taha - Origami

Applications to share collections are available in the library. We are looking forward to seeing more informational and interesting collections in the future!

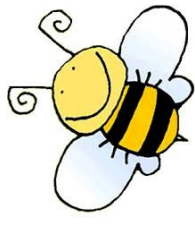
On April 30<sup>th</sup> the annual Nutmeg at Night event was held at Bennet Academy. Robertson School was well represented at this night of food, fun, and friendly competition by 5<sup>th</sup> graders Shalom Acheampong, Abbey Cross, Alex McDowell, and Tyonna Tyson. Next September we will be encouraging all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to start reading the new Nutmeg Award nominees!

**K-8 Resource Page:** Many of the sites your children visit at school can be found on this page. Just visit our school website (<http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/page.cfm?p=714>), click on "Resources" in the top row, and then click on "K-8".

## Fun Run and Family Picnic

The Robertson School Fun Run and Family Picnic will be held Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> at Northwest Park in Manchester. The race begins at 10:30 a.m. Please arrive early to check in. This race is open to all Robertson students in grades K-5. The picnic will begin after all runners have finished. If you have not signed up and would like to participate, show up at **10:00 a.m.** to register. The race is free! **A parent must be present while their child is at the event.** All efforts will be made to complete the event Rain or Shine! Should the race be postponed, an announcement will be posted on the Robertson PE website (<http://schoolnotes.com/06040/robertsonpe.html>) by 8:00 a.m. the day of the race. Mr. Coughlin needs volunteers to watch the runners along the course for safety. If you would like to help, please call the school or email Mr. Coughlin ([b59jcoug@manchesterct.gov](mailto:b59jcoug@manchesterct.gov)).





## Robertson School Kindergarten Registration

Beginning in April, registration for incoming Kindergarten children will be available on-line. If your child was born on or before January 1, 2010 please visit the Manchester Public Schools website:

<http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/>

Follow the prompts and complete the online registration. Call Robertson (860) 647-3372 and make an appointment for you and your child to complete the registration process.

Registration Dates at Robertson are May 20, 21, 22.

Time slots will fill up quickly so please call soon to reserve your appointment.

## Multiple Abilities Room 19

After a long and cold winter, we were all very ready to welcome spring. Robins, nests, bees, butterflies, rabbits, and rainbow art projects, now adorn the main bulletin board in our classroom. One fact students learned was that robins eat worms and berries.

In addition, students have made great progress on Phonological Awareness skills and are now producing rhymes for one syllable words. Next, we will be working on identifying the last sound of these words. In math, some students are working on counting coin combinations by using touch points. Students learn the location of touch points on a nickel, dime, and quarter. Once learned, they touch each point and count by 5s. Then they add pennies by counting by 1s. Students are much more successful counting coin combinations using this method since they don't have to switch between 5s, 10s, or 25s.







# Kindergarten Express

May 2013

## Language Arts

Kindergarten continues to enjoy their shared reading time with stories like "Chickens" and "The Little Overcoat".

Can your child tell you two facts about chickens that he or she learned from the book? How many days does it take a chicken to hatch? What is the machine that is used to warm many eggs at a time? We love to read non-fiction!

During the reading of "The Little Overcoat", we realized there was a good strategy for remembering the order of events. We just thought about the size of the clothing that the overcoat turned into. After that retelling the story was a breeze!

The children made a great connection between fiction and non-fiction stories. We read books about penguins and bears. The non-fictional books were definitely a hit. Students loved looking for information on these wonderful animals! Can your child make a connection to a story after you have read it to them or they have read it independently? Ask your child, "Does this story remind you of something in your life or another book you have read?"

## Science

We continue to take care of our plants and learn about living and non living things. This will eventually flow into learning about life cycles.

## Growing and Moving With Math

The kindergarten students are continuing to work on 2-D and 3-D shapes. Students have learned the names of these shapes as well as how many sides each shape has and what shape the faces are. Shapes are all around us! Can you find rectangles, circles, squares, triangles, hexagons, spheres, cylinders, cones, or cubes in your neighborhood?

Students are also learning the positional words: above, below, beside, next to, behind, and in front of. Play a game with your child. Ask him or her to place their toy in front of a chair or beside the TV. Have fun!

## Upcoming Events

**\*PTA Meeting- May 21st**

**\*Early Dismissal Day: 5/14**

**\*No School- 5/26**

**\*Kindergarten Field Trip to Northwest Park in Windsor 6/6. Watch for permission slips!**

**\*Lutz Museum Classroom visits:**

**Migrators and Hibernators 5/16**

**Homes and Habitats 5/22**

**Life Cycles 6/16**

**Our Lutz visits are so fun! We get to pet a hedgehog, turtle, and rabbit. We will learn why animals migrate and some hibernate.**

## May – First Grade News

We hope everyone had a fun and relaxing April vacation! In Reading and Language Arts, our children continue to work on applying comprehension skills such as story structure and summarizing, sequencing, making inferences and drawing conclusions. Now students are ready to use these strategies as tools for learning. In writing, we are moving from writing Nonfiction/Information/How-To books to writing about our Opinions. Opinion writing involves giving several reasons for our opinion and providing supporting details for those reasons in order to persuade others to share our opinion.

Math continues to involve addition and subtraction strategies within 20, as well as continuing to work on understanding whole number relationships and place value, including grouping in tens and ones. We are also practicing measurement and are learning about fractions.

In science, we are enjoying observing first-hand the life cycles of a butterfly. We are tracking each step of the miraculous metamorphosis in our Science journals. We are truly amazed by these wondrous animals.

In Social Studies, the major themes for the month of May are Flag Day and map skills. We will also continue our Second Step program, learning how to respond to each other appropriately, how to control our emotions and how to solve social problems we may encounter.

Happy Mother's Day!! Enjoy the beautiful weather.



## SECOND GRADE NEWS

In reading, the second graders will begin to focus on the comprehension strategy summarizing. Summarizing requires students to determine what is important in what they are reading and to put it into their own words. Instruction in summarizing helps students:

- Identify or generate main ideas
- Connect the main or central ideas
- Eliminate unnecessary information

Remember what they read

In writing, the students are learning how to write about their independent reading books in ways that will persuade others to love them as much as they do! The goal of this unit is to help children learn to state clear opinions and to support these ideas with evidence.

The second grade students have been working on researching, planning, and writing an expository piece. They have been reading non-fiction texts and media sources to research a specific animal. They have used text features such as table of contents, indexes, headings, and pictures to locate information. They have been recording basic information about their research, including notes, charts and pictures. They will create a visual presentation to share with their peers.

We continue to reinforce editing skills as a part of the writing process. You can also emphasize editing at home with your child's homework. The reading response is a great way to reinforce editing on a weekly basis.

In Foundations, our phonics and word study program, students will continue to work with multisyllabic words. We will continue to work on the double vowel syllable. Students will learn to read and spell words with oi, oy, oa, oe, and ow.

The second grade students will continue to review Math concepts that we have studied throughout the year such as money (counting coins and adding various amounts of money together), basic facts (until your child becomes fluent), and addition and subtraction of 2 and 3 digit numbers. Also, ask your child to orally describe how he/she is solving a given math problem. Students will greatly benefit from these reviews as they begin to make their transition into 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Second graders will continue to explore the natural world using the scientific method. They are conducting experiments to examine how colors, textures and other properties vary among samples using samples collected from a river. Students will use this information to predict which soil samples would support the growth of plants. They continue to document their findings in written lab reports.





# THIRD GRADE NEWS



Things are really “*buzzing*” in Third Grade! Check out what is in store for the month of May! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher.

## Math

We will begin our unit on Understanding Fractions! The Students will learn that a fraction is a part of a whole, locate where a fraction is on a number line and will use what they know about fractions being part of a whole to partition (divide) a number line into equal parts. Your third grader has been using shapes in our geometry unit to partition into equal parts, and learned about unit fractions, so this will be very helpful for our next unit!

## Writing

This is the unit that all Third Graders wait for all year- **CURSIVE HAND-WRITING!** Students will learn how to hold their pencil, slant their paper and the strokes necessary to write cursive letters. By the end of the school year, all third graders will be able to write in cursive! We will also continue to work on the Writing Process to complete a writing piece.

## Science

This month, we will be learning the Scientific Method, the process scientists use to conduct experiments! Stay tuned for more information about the experiments we will be conducting!

## Social Studies

We will be taking a closer look at our town of Manchester. We will learn about how people lived in the 1800s and how different things are today! We will then move into learning about our state of Connecticut! We will be learning why our state is nicknamed “The Constitution State”, and learn some important state symbols.

## Literacy

We are learning and applying many strategies in Reading! We are using what we learned about Theme and Summarizing to help drive discussions in our Guided Reading groups. This month, the focus will be on Poetry. We will look closely at each stanza, and try to determine the meaning of the poet’s words. We will also learn types of Poetry and will write some of our own!

## Upcoming Events:

- \*May 6- Art Show
- \*May 14- Early Dismissal- 1:17
- \*May 15- Manchester Tour
- \*May 20- Concert @ MHS
- \*Lutz Museum Visit
- \*May 27- CHS/ State Capitol

## Fourth Grade News

Dear Families,

May will be a very busy month of field trips. Please make sure that a disposable lunch is packed and your child is dressed appropriately for each trip. The busses will be leaving Robertson right after morning announcements so make sure your child is on time! The Autobon Society is requesting a waiver be signed by each child to participate. They will not be doing anything dangerous or strenuous but since they will be outside, The Autobon Society won't take responsibility for bee stings or possible contact with poison ivy.

4/30- Mystic

5/1- MHS Boston Brass Concert

5/6- Autobon Society

5/13- Hammonasett

In reading and writing your students have begun collecting research in order to write an essay arguing a view to a posed issue. We will be studying research that has been previously conducted on the benefits of sleep. Ask your child if they think that an early bedtime is important. Don't accept a "yes" or "no" answer, they must defend their statement with factual support! Remember to read at LEAST 20 minutes every night.

Basic math facts continue to be a struggle for most of our students. Please keep practicing subtraction, multiplication, and division. We have completed our fractions unit. Students were asked to make equivalent fractions, multiply fractions, and add and subtract fractions with different denominators and whole numbers. We then moved on to measurement. Students were exposed to all types of measurement both in the customary and metric systems. We also practiced converting measurements from ounces to pounds, quarts to cups, etc. We are beginning our geometry unit by looking at different types of line segments and angles.

We will be starting our next unit in science. Students will be investigating land and water. Some of these experiments have already begun. This unit will be expanded into pollution and climate change while at the Audubon Society. Students will work with weather instruments to find the temperature and wind speeds in different ecosystems.

The end of the year gets very busy for everyone. Please make sure that you are checking Wednesday folders for announcements, and homework will still be given through the end of the year.

Thank you,

Miss Brini & Miss Coll

## Fifth Grade May Newsletter

**LANGUAGE ARTS-** April was POETRY MONTH and fifth graders discovered that poetry comes in many shapes and forms, but most of all allows you to express your feelings! Both classes have been studying, practicing, and creating various forms of poetry, and analyzing some classics.

We also continue to study characterization and connections to texts, ourselves and the world as we read realistic fiction novels for the remainder of the year. The Common Core standards will continue to be our main focus throughout all subjects. This will encourage various research projects, persuasive writing and increased exposure to non-fiction texts throughout all subjects.

**SOCIAL STUDIES-** We continue to study the Colonial era and are learning about the many struggles that colonists went through for their freedom and the land we now call home. This month classes will examine what life was like during the 1700s by playing colonial children's games and re-enacting some of the famous events such as The Stamp Act, The Boston Tea Party (with real tea), The Battle of Bunker Hill and The Revolutionary War.

**SCIENCE-** In recognition of Earth Day which took place on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, students did their part and took charge of cleaning up the school grounds. Pollution is a serious dilemma in our society and each day that we walk out into the play yard to play ball with our friends or run around during recess, we have the right to do so in a clean environment. We will do our best to keep our grounds clean and safe to play in for all children at Robertson.

**MATH-** For the past few weeks we have focused our attention to performing different operations with fractions. Real world situations that require adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions were the topics of our word problems. We are moving into our Geometry unit this month. We are looking at the different properties of quadrilaterals and the distinctions between each shape.

\*This month students will also have the option of taking a math placement test which will determine the level of math taken next year at Bennet. Both students and parents were informed of this assessment before and during conferences. Some of the skills that students may be required to know for that test include pre-algebra and algebra.

**SPECIAL NOTES/RECOGNITION:** At the end of March, five of Robertson's fifth graders were honored at this year's Board of Education Academic Achievement and Citizenship Awards ceremony. These students have proven to be true role models for their peers and we are very proud of their accomplishments and hard work that they have displayed throughout the year. The honored recipients were Shalom Acheampong, Gabbrielle Gajewski, Elaineh Paulino, Jessica Gajewski, and Tyonna Tyson. Congratulations and keep up the fabulous work!

\*Our annual visit to Bennett Academy is scheduled for Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. We will depart shortly after attendance and will return to Robertson before lunch. During the visit 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be given a tour by current 6<sup>th</sup> graders so they will get a feel of what to expect next year. This is always a very eye opening experience for them. Parents will also be invited to tour with their kids during the evening, so please watch for this notice to come home with the times and dates.

**HOMEWORK IS STILL BEING GIVEN!** Please be sure to check your child's assignments each night and be sure that they are completing their work. Spelling homework will begin to come home as we prepare to study for our Annual Robertson Spelling Bee! This is always a challenging experience for our kids and we encourage parents to help their children study these words at home as well, as they get ready for some healthy competition with classmates. T-H-A-N-K - Y-O-U!

## **MANCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS** **NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE**

Manchester Public Schools is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. Manchester Public Schools does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, access to boy scouts or other designated youth groups, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal non-discrimination laws. Manchester Public Schools does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Inquiries regarding Manchester Public School's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to:

Terri Smith, Human Resources Specialist/Title IX Coordinator  
Manchester Public Schools  
45 North School Street  
Manchester, CT 06042  
860-647-3595

Shelly Matfess, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services  
Section 504 Co-Coordinator  
Manchester Public Schools  
45 North School Street  
Manchester, CT 06042  
860-647-3452

or

Suzanne Valade, Coordinator of School Health Services  
Section 504 Co-Coordinator  
Manchester Public Schools  
45 North School Street  
Manchester, CT 06042  
860-647-3324

The school district's policy of nondiscrimination must be prominently included in all handbooks, bulletin, catalog, booklet, announcement, brochure, student/employee application form or other publication distributed to students, potential students, parents, and any other persons benefiting from the school district's activities and programs. The name and contact information (office address, telephone number, fax number, email address) of the Title IX Coordinator must also be included in this announcement.

### **Title IX Notice** **Policy #4013**

It is the policy of the Manchester Public Schools to maintain a working environment free from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, insults or intimidation on the basis of an employee's sex or inclusion in a protected class. Verbal or physical conduct by a supervisor or co-worker related to an employee's sex, which has the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment, unreasonably interfering with the employee's work performance, or adversely affecting the employee's employment opportunities, is prohibited. The school district will provide staff development for new district administrators and will publish its policy and grievance procedures to employees in an effort to maintain an environment free of sex discrimination and sexual harassment.

Title IX is a federal law which states: "No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance." Manchester's Title IX coordinator is:

Terri Smith  
Manchester Public Schools  
45 North School Street  
Manchester, CT 06042  
Phone: 860-647-3595  
Fax: 860-647-3327

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the overall implementation of Title IX for the school district and coordinating the institution's compliance with Title IX in all areas covered by implementing regulations. The major responsibility is the prevention of sexual harassment and discrimination.